

Follow Through--Grants to Local Education Agencies and Other Public and Private Nonprofit Agencies (CFDA No. 84.014)

I. Legislation

The Follow Through Act, Title VI, P.L. 97-35, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9861-77) (expired 1994).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1968	\$15,000,000	1991	\$7,265,000
1970	70,300,000	1992	8,632,200
1975	55,500,000	1993	8,478,000
1980	44,250,000	1994	8,478,000
1985	10,000,000	1995	0
1990	7,171,000	1996	0

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The purpose of this program was to sustain and augment, in kindergarten and the primary grades, the gains that children from low-income families made in Head Start and other preschool programs of similar quality by (1) providing comprehensive services that will help these children develop to their full potential; (2) achieving active participation of parents; (3) producing knowledge about innovative educational approaches specifically designed to assist these children in their continued growth and development; and (4) demonstrating and disseminating effective Follow Through practices. Program appropriations ended in 1994. This is a close-out report on the program.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Local Follow Through projects were required to serve primarily low-income children enrolled in kindergarten and primary grades who had participated in a full-year Head Start or similar preschool program, including other federally assisted preschool programs of a compensatory nature.

At least 60 percent of the children enrolled in each project were from low-income families and at least 60 percent of the children had to have had preschool education. Schoolwide project schools enrolled at least 75 percent of their children from low-income families. When Follow Through operated in a Chapter 1 schoolwide project, no restriction was imposed regarding the percentage of participants from low-income families or with previous preschool experience.

Typically, projects were designed to

- Implement an innovative educational approach specifically designed to improve the school performance of low-income children in kindergarten and the primary grades;

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- Provide supplementary or specialized instruction in the regular classroom, and education-related services to all students in the classroom;
- Orient and train Follow Through staff, parents, and other appropriate personnel;
- Provide for the active participation of Follow Through parents in the development, conduct, and overall direction of the local project;
- Provide health, social, nutritional, and other support services to aid the continued development of Follow Through children; and
- Demonstrate and disseminate information about effective Follow Through practices in order to encourage adoption of those practices by other public and private schools.

In FY 1992 the Department of Education funded 46 projects -- 12 sponsors and 34 local education agencies (LEAs). The program gave priority to LEA projects operating in Chapter 1 schools designated as schoolwide projects; as a result, 24 of the LEA grants were awarded to districts serving children in schoolwide projects.

IV. Planned Studies

None.

V. Sources of Information

1. Program files.
2. Margaret C. Wang and Herbert J. Walberg. The National Follow Through Program: Lessons from Two Decades of Research Practice in School Improvement, October 1988, ED 336191.
3. Margaret C. Wang and Eugene A. Ramp. The National Follow Through Program: Design, Implementation, and Effects (Philadelphia, PA: November 1987).

VI. Contacts for Further Information

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